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Agenda items 121 and 124

Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Pattern of conferences

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.83

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1 to 4 of draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.83, the General Assembly would:

Decide to authorize the Committee on Conferences to hold its 2000 substantive session at the United Nations Office at Nairobi;

Also decide that, in accordance with the decision taken by the Committee on Conferences to hold its 2000 substantive session at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, in response to paragraph 23, section B, of General Assembly resolution 54/248 of 23 December 1999, to pay for one representative of each State member of the Committee, from New York to Nairobi, to attend the session;

Encourage those members of the Committee who have official representation in Nairobi, where feasible, to be represented at the session by their officials in Nairobi;

Request those members of the Committee from economically more developed countries, where feasible, to finance their own travel to Nairobi.

2. Operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution would constitute an exception to the system of travel and subsistence allowance to members of organs or subsidiary organs of the United Nations adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 1798 (XVII) of 11 December 1962, and travel and subsistence allowance costs would arise in respect of members of the Committee on Conferences, as a result of holding the 2000 substantive session of the Committee at the United Nations Office at Nairobi. These costs are estimated in an amount up to $146,000. Furthermore, travel costs of $30,900 for the Committee's secretariat and officials of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services who would attend the Committee's session at Nairobi (four staff) and $85,000 for 11 interpreters

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and one report writer to serve the Committee's session would also arise. These costs are based on the assumption that the members of the Committee would travel from New York to Nairobi at United Nations expense; the Committee would meet for three working days; that translation and editing services would be provided remotely from Headquarters; and that reproduction and distribution of documents and meeting room services would be provided by the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

3. The costs relating to the travel of staff ($115,900 in total) could be met from the provisions approved in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

4. The costs associated with the travel of the members of the Committee on Conferences ($146,000) would represent additional requirements not provided for in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. While operative paragraphs 3 and 4 of the draft resolution may reduce the final costs, this would not be known until after the 2000 substantive session of the Committee on Conferences.

5. Consequently, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.83, additional requirements up to $146,000 would arise under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, subject to the guidelines for the use and operation of the contingency fund.